

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 CIEP-01

SPC-01 NEA-06 AF-04 IO-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 /064 W

----- 025928

R 291649Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8733

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0867

LIMDIS

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, DA

SUBJ: DANISH-ARAB RELATIONS ON OIL SHIPMENTS

REF: COPENHAGEN 773

1. WE ASKED FONOFF UNDER SECRETARY JENS CHRISTENSEN WHETHER
HE HAD HEARD ANYTHING FURTHER ON REPORTED STOPPAGE OF ALGERIANOIL
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SHIPMENTS TO DENMARK (REFTEL). CHRISTENSEN SAID HE HAD TALKED

RECENTLY WITH ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS, AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, AND ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION. THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT NO UNILATERAL ALGERIAN RESTRICTIONS ON OIL SHIPMENTS TO DENMARK EXIST; THEREFORE, ANY SUCH ACTION MUST BE BASED ON OPEC DECISION. THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO CHECK AND CONTACT CHRISTENSEN SHOULD HE FIND THAT OPEC RESTRICTIONS ARE BEING APPLIED. CHRISTENSEN SAID HE HAS HEARD NOTHING SINCE AND, IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER EVIDENCE, WILL ASSUME ARABS ARE NOT BOYCOTTING DENMARK ON OIL.

2. CHRISTENSEN SAID HE REALIZES MATTER IS OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY AND IMPORTANCE TO DENMARK BUT, IN HIS VIEW, IT HAD BEST BE HANDLED BY DOING NOTHING AND WAITING FOR DEVELOPMENTS. IF DENMARK BROUGHT MATTERS TO A HEAD (AS, HE IMPLIED, THE POLITICAL SIDE IN FONOFF WANTS), THIS MIGHT RESULT IN CONFRONTATION IN WHICH PRESTIGE ON BOTH SIDES WOULD BE INVOLVED, WITH INEVITABLE DAMAGE TO DANISH INTERESTS.

3. DANISH ESSO PRESIDENT CONFIRMED TO US MARCH 29 THAT SONATRACH ORDER AGAINST LOADINGS FOR DENMARK REMAINS. HE HAD FURTHER HEARD RUMORS THAT LIBYANS ARE ABOUT TO IMPOSE SAME RESTRICTIONS. ESSO REQUEST FOR ARAMCO TO ASK ABOUT ALLEGED BOYCOTT WAS TURNED DOWN, WITH ARAMCO OFFICIALS STATING THEY HAVE TOO MANY LARGER ISSUES WITH SAG TO RAISE THIS QUESTION NOW.

4. COMMENT: CHRISTENSEN'S HEAD-IN-THE-SAND ATTITUDE IS PROBABLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESENT. IF BOYCOTT SPREADS, SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION WOULD FORCE ACTION. DANES SIMPLY HOPE THIS WON'T BE THE CASE.
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